

VA Health Care Upstate New York VA Western New York Healthcare System

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WOMEN VETERANS PTSD RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM EXPANDS

VA Western New York Healthcare System is celebrating the new 10,000 square foot building at the Batavia site, 222 Richmond Avenue Friday, January 10 at 10 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Women Veterans posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) residential program. Center for H.O.P.E, Healing Opportunities for Peace and Empowerment, a name that Women Veterans and staff thought fitting for the site, is a \$15 million project will serve approximately 100 Women Veterans annually from all over the United States.

The program which is one of eight in the country, has been serving Women Veterans in Batavia since March 2006. The new building offers 12 single bedrooms with private bathrooms, individual and group therapy rooms, a kitchen, laundry and common area along with office space for providers. The building is a unique blend of a modern facility incorporating the Batavia VA's historical charm.

This treatment modality for PTSD, is one of many offered by VA, and ranges from a few weeks to eight weeks dependent on patient needs. "We are pleased to offer PTSD residential treatment for more Women Veterans in this state of the art facility on the grounds of the Batavia VA, that offer much tranquility as a healing environment," stated Brian Stiller, Director, VA Western New York Healthcare System.

Women Veterans are a growing population in VA health care with more women serving in the military. Friday's event is open to the public.

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